

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, and 21-38 being independent. No claims have been amended.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation that Claims 23, 24, 28, 29, 32-34, 37, and 38 continue to be allowed.

In the Official Action dated February 11, 2002, Claims 1-3, 6-7, 10-17, 19-22, 25-27, 30-31, and 35-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being directly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,263,202 (Kato, et al.). Claim 4 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,161 (Schliwa). Claims 5, 8, 9, and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kato, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,058,365 (Nagai, et al.). These rejections respectfully are traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are requested in view of the following remarks.

Each of independent Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 21, 22, 25-27, 30, 31, 35, and 36 recite, among other things, a speech input terminal (or a speech input means, as in Claim 1) and means for creating or receiving information for speech recognition that is unique to the speech input terminal or means.

The Kato, et al. reference discloses a system comprising a PHS terminal 12 (which may be considered a speech input terminal) and a provider system 18 which are connected through a wireless communication network.

However, Kato, et al. fails to disclose or suggest the above-referenced features of the present invention. In particular, Kato, et al. fails to disclose or suggest performing speech

recognition in an apparatus that communicates with a speech input terminal. The Kato, et al. patent also fails to disclose or suggest creating or receiving information that is unique to the speech input terminal or represents an operation state thereof. These distinctions are further explained below.

In paragraph 5 of the Official Action, dated February 11, 2003, the Examiner states that Figure 2 of the Kato, et al. reference indicates that speech data (12) is transmitted to a speech recognition apparatus (3204) through a wire or wireless communication network (14). However, Applicants respectfully disagree with that interpretation of Kato, et al. for two reasons. First, reference numeral 12 denotes a PHS terminal (see Fig 1 and column 4, lines 26-28 of that patent), not speech data. Second, reference numeral 3204 denotes a voice synthesis and voice conversion section, not a speech recognition apparatus.

Indeed, Figure 2 of that patent clearly illustrates that speech input occurs in the microphone 1201 and speech recognition is performed in section 1202 of the PHS terminal 12 (see column 6, lines 3-6 and 22-26 of that patent). Therefore, Kato, et al. fails to disclose or suggest performing speech recognition in a speech recognition apparatus which communicates with a separate and distinct speech input terminal, as disclosed and claimed in the present application.

The Kato, et al. patent also fails to disclose or suggest creating or receiving information that is unique to the speech input terminal (microphone) or information that represents an operation state of the speech input terminal (microphone).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's comments pertaining to this feature. In paragraph 5 of the Official Action, dated February 11, 2003, the Examiner states that

Figure 7 of the Kato, et al. reference illustrates the feature of creating information for speech recognition (step 403) which is unique to that speech input terminal or represents an operation state. The Applicants respectfully disagree with that comparison.

In step 402, voice recognition is performed to specify characters and/or numerals from the input voice. Step 403 indicates that the user can “specify the dialect into which the voice that is to be sent is to be converted” (see column 9, lines 27-34 of that patent). In step 404, the characters and numbers specified in step 402 (the voice recognition step) are converted according to the dialect specified in step 403 (see column 9, lines 35-38 of that patent). Thus, since the voice recognition occurs prior to step 403, it is clear that the dialect information is not information used for the speech recognition step.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that independent Claims 1, 6, 7, 10, 11, 21, 22, 25-27, 30, 31, 35, and 36 are patentable over Kato, et al.

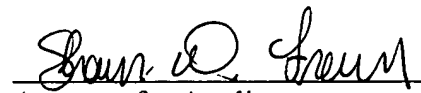
Schliwa and Nagai et al., which were cited with reference to various dependent claims, fail to remedy the deficiencies in the disclosure of Kato, et al. Schliwa discloses setting terminal specific parameters of a communication terminal using speech recognition. Nagai et al. relates to the improvement of a speech recognition method using an LR parser so as to be adapted to a phoneme environment such as a triphone.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Shawn W. Fraser", is written over a horizontal line.

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